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Land Management Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Report

Cleveland National Forest Fiscal Year 2006

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Cleveland Land Management Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Report

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Cleveland Land Management Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Report

I. Introduction

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 Monitoring and Evaluation Report documents the evaluation of monitoring information related to the Cleveland National Forest Land Management Plan (LMP) from October 1, 2005 (revised plan went into effect on October 31, 2005) through September 30, 2006. Any project implemented on or after October 31 is expected to be consistent with the new LMP. Evaluation is the analysis and interpretation of monitoring data to determine the effectiveness of the LMP and whether changes in the plan, or in project or program implementation are necessary.

On June 23, 2006, the Cleveland National Forest Environmental Management System (EMS) went into effect. The team will use applicable elements of the EMS (e.g. procedures, records) to help monitor and evaluate plan implementation. Any projects implemented after June 23 will incorporate implementation of the EMS. For example, projects that fall under one of the program areas determined to be a significant environmental aspect (see Cleveland EMS, Element 4.3.1) require operational controls to be documented and carried out consistent with the EMS (see Cleveland EMS, Element 4.4.6). The Forest EMS is posted on the Cleveland website (www.fs.fed.us/cleveland).

II. Methodology

The monitoring plan for the Cleveland National Land Management Plan is described in all parts of the plan. The monitoring requirements are summarized in LMP Part 3, Appendix C. The Cleveland Monitoring Guide further details the protocols that were used in this review. This guide is available to the public upon request.

In Part 1, the LMP identifies outcome questions that will help to evaluate movement toward the desired conditions over the long-term. The monitoring guide describes the baseline data that will be used to answer these questions and evaluate progress over time toward desired conditions. A comprehensive evaluation of this movement will be prepared in the fifth year following plan implementation.

Corporate databases track accomplishment of work related to objectives and strategies (LMP Part 2).

Implementation and effectiveness monitoring for Part 3 of the LMP was conducted at the project or activity level. A ten percent sample of projects and ongoing activities was randomly selected and visited to review the application and effectiveness of the design criteria. If problems in implementation were detected or if design criteria were determined to be ineffective, then the team recommended corrective actions.

The Forest asked the following questions of each reviewed project or ongoing activity:

1. **Did we accomplish what we set out to do? (Compare expected results to actual results)**—Findings were documented on the Cleveland EMS Element 4.5.2 LMP Protocol checklist, shown below). To evaluate effectiveness the team asked: Has project design criteria been effective at improving environmental conditions as expected?

Monitoring Question per LMP Protocol for Review of Projects and Ongoing Activity Sites	Y / N	If no, identify what phase of the process was deficient (i.e. NEPA or project administration) and describe deficiencies. If yes, identify any standard operating procedure or key reason(s) for the success.
Were LMP goals, desired conditions and standards incorporated into operational plans (i.e. burn plans, allotment plans, facility master plan, etc.)? Review site-specific checklists.		
Were NEPA mitigation measures or LMP project design criteria implemented as designed? Review EMS Operational Controls implementation checklists.		
Were requirements from biological assessments/evaluations and heritage evaluations (ARRs) and watershed assessments implemented?		
Were legal and other requirements (EMS Table 4.3.2 or LMP consistency review checklists) identified as applicable to the project or site addresses?		
Were operational controls effective at protecting the environment as intended?		
Is there evidence that previously identified non-conformities (EMS Form 4.5.3A) have been corrected?		

2. **Why did it happen?** The Forest emphasized and sought out underlying cause-and-effect relationships not individual performance or behavior.
3. **What are we going to do next time?**
 - a. What activities should be continued to sustain success?
 - b. Are changes needed to correct any implementation or effectiveness-related problems?
 - c. If change is needed, will it require an amendment or administrative corrections to the Land Management Plan?

Results, conclusions, and recommendations were documented on the Cleveland National Forest LMP Monitoring and Tracking forms and in this annual LMP Monitoring and Evaluation Report.

III. Land Management Plan Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects, Activities, and Programs

In accordance with the methodology described in the monitoring guide, ten percent of new projects or ongoing activity sites for each type of activity were randomly selected for review and are listed in Table 1 in the appendix of this report.

Blue Jay Campground (06-LMP-Dev_Rec-1)

Monitoring

Blue Jay Campground is an ongoing activity in the Elsinore Place on the Trabuco Ranger District. The site was reviewed for consistency with the Land Management Plan. There is no prior monitoring and evaluation report addressing this campground.



The Trabuco District Ranger shows where accessible facilities would be constructed if a capital investment proposal is funded at Blue Jay Campground.

Results

The site is managed for year round use. Due to the limited camping opportunities in the Santa Ana Mountains, the site is well used. The site is currently managed well although below its potential. The Trabuco Ranger District intends to plan for recreation site improvements and submit the project for funding through the Capital Investment Program (CIP), which is a competitive process that the Forest Service uses to fund capital investments. If funded, the Blue Jay proposal that is currently being prepared would enhance the camping opportunities and site accessibility. The Elsinore Water District is the purveyor of high quality water for the water system. Trash pick up is provided through an agreement with Los Pinos Camp. The camp also provides thousands of hours of maintenance annually. The site has no threatened, endangered or sensitive (TES) species habitat or issues. The campground has no heritage (historic) issues that cannot be mitigated. The Forest environmental policy (see figure 1 in appendix) was posted as per the Forest EMS.

Conclusions

The campground is consistent with long-term plan goal 3.1; recreation strategies 1, 2, 3 and 4; and Elsinore Place emphasis for providing range of recreation experiences including improving developed recreation facilities. The site provides a high potential for enhanced overnight camping opportunities and is a good site for capital investment once power is added. Commendations are in order for the District for use of partnerships and for preparing a CIP proposal.

Recommendations

- Continue working toward the CIP project to upgrade this facility.
- Identify other proposals on the Forest. Working together with the public, create a sustainable program that aligns the Forest's developed recreation sites with visitors' desires and use. This will be accomplished through the recreation site facility master planning (RS-FMP), which is a process of national scope with local forest emphasis. Each national forest will use this process to create a 5-year proposed "Program of Work" to better manage and improve the quality of our recreation sites. Dialogue with the public is a critical part of the process. When the process is initiated on the Cleveland, the public will be provided with information on the process and how to participate. An overview of the RS-FMP is provided on the Forest Service website (<http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/>).
- Greening the government: Work with Los Pinos Camp on a recycling program at the campground. Look at opportunities to use recycled materials to replace wooden posts.
- Develop an operating plan. This will address an existing Forestwide Corrective Action Request (CAR) to prepare operating plans for Forest Service-operated developed recreation sites on the Cleveland National Forest.

Crestline Group Campground (06-LMP-Dev_Rec-2)

Monitoring

Crestline Group Campground is an ongoing activity site located in the popular Palomar Mountain area on the Palomar Ranger District. The site was reviewed for consistency with the Land Management Plan. The site has not been previously monitored for LMP compliance.



Improvements to Crestline Group Campground are needed for accessibility. However, the site's location holds opportunities for enhancing conservation education.

Results

This group camping site has moderate seasonal use. The restrooms are in good condition and accessible. However, the table and barbeque area need improvements to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Hazardous fuels treatments in the adjacent area have made this area consistent with the wildland urban interface (WUI) goal 1.1. No resource issues were noted. The EMS policy was not posted.

Conclusions

Palomar Mountain has a large number of overnight camping facilities between the Forest and Palomar Mountain State Park. There is a high level of day use on weekends, driving for pleasure, and visiting the observatory. This campground is located near a busy highway intersection. There is little on the Forest to address the needs of day users as both trails in the area are associated with campgrounds and parking is limited. The campground is consistent with long-term plan goal 3.1; recreation strategies 1, 2, 3 and 4; and Palomar Place emphasis for maintaining developed recreation opportunities and defensible space/community protection.

Recommendations

- Consider enhancing the day use experience by building a partnership to provide conservation education at this site where all of the roads meet that access Palomar Mountain. Explore opportunities to use this interpretive facility to inform people about local recreational opportunities and community protection projects in the WUI.
- The Penny Pines turnout is an opportunity for a viewing platform and parking.
- Consider improvements that would make the site accessible. This will occur as a part of the recreation site facility master planning process.

Laguna Mountain Visitor Center (06-LMP-Dev_Rec-3)

Monitoring

The Laguna Mountain Visitor Center is an ongoing activity site that was reviewed for consistency with the Land Management Plan.

Results

The visitor center is staffed by volunteers (Laguna Mountain Volunteer Association) and is currently open Friday afternoons and weekends. Forest visitors may view interpretive exhibits or buy passes and Forest maps. In addition to the staffed exhibits, there is a small outdoor amphitheatre. Wildland urban interface fuels reduction work is evident all around the center as well as around adjacent recreation residences. The project record was thorough for the construction of the accessible restroom, parking and center facilities that were constructed a few years ago. *Horkelia clevelandii*, a plant that provides habitat for the federally endangered Laguna Mountains skipper butterfly, is protected from the leach field. Actions have continued to be taken to provide for recreation while protecting resources, including drainage repair and installation of split rail fencing to keep visitors on the path. The Forest EMS policy was not posted at the information kiosk.



The Laguna Mountain Visitor Center, staffed by the Laguna Mountain Volunteer Association, offers education and interpretive opportunities accessible to all.

Conclusions

Commendations are in order for the District and their partners, the Laguna Mountain Volunteer Association, for managing a very nice visitor center. The facility is consistent with long-term plan goals 1.1, 3.1 and Laguna Place emphasis for scenery, high variety and quality recreation settings, maintaining and developing recreation facilities in compliance with built environment image guide, developing interpretive opportunities where resources can be protected, and continued fuels reduction work for community protection. Adaptive management in accordance with the LMP is evident to reduce user impacts on the site.

Recommendations

- Keep up the good work and expand the conservation education programs.
- Post the Forest EMS policy poster. The Forest expects to update its EMS to reflect new national direction in fiscal year 2008 and will at that time post revised posters.

Inaja Memorial Picnic Ground (06-LMP-Dev_Rec-4)

Monitoring

Inaja Memorial Picnic Ground is an ongoing activity site in the Upper San Diego River Place on the Palomar Ranger District. The picnic ground also has an adjacent interpretive trail. The site was reviewed for consistency with the Land Management Plan (LMP).



The Inaja Memorial Picnic Ground and Interpretive Trail honors the men who lost their lives fighting the Inaja Forest Fire of 1956. Interpretive improvements are planned at the site.



Results

Inaja Memorial Picnic Ground is a nice facility. Upgrades are needed for accessibility and interpretation, and the trail had some erosion. There is an existing road near the entrance that leads to San Diego Gas and Electric powerlines. The picnic ground and part of the interpretive trail have been proposed for capital investment program (CIP) funding but have not yet been selected. Nevertheless, proposed improvements for interpretation of the Inaja Fire are underway through a partnership with the San Diego River Conservancy. The Forest environmental policy was posted as per the Forest EMS.

Conclusions

The CIP proposal for the picnic ground is consistent with moving toward the LMP long-term goal 3.1. The plans for interpretation and trail-based recreation are consistent with the San Diego River Place emphasis for increasing public understanding of natural systems through education and interpretation. Commendations are in order for the District for creating a partnership to provide the interpretation. The EMS policy was posted.

Recommendations

- Implement upgrades as planned through trail and interpretive improvements;
- Conduct site-specific travel analysis as a part of permit renewal to determine the need for the road accessing the San Diego Gas and Electric powerline;
- Consider improvements that would make the site accessible. This will occur as a part of the recreation site facility master planning process.
- Monitor for erosion and take action as needed.

Viejas Recreation Residence Tract (06-LMP-Dev_Rec-5)

Monitoring

The Viejas Recreation Residence tract is an ongoing activity site that was reviewed for consistency with the Land Management Plan (LMP). It is management of the tract rather than administration of the individual permits that is the focus of the monitoring for LMP consistency.



Because of its loss of national forest character, the Viejas Tract is a potential land exchange on the Descanso Ranger District. The tract is located in the community of Alpine, CA.

Results

The LMP monitoring focus is on management of the tract rather than the lot. Recreation residence permits on District are scheduled for renewal in 2008. However, because this tract is surrounded on either side by development and the site no longer has national forest character, both this tract and the Hulburd tract are proposed for land exchange. The files document solid permit administration. Fuels work is done adjacent to tract. Some non-compliance (e.g. non-native plants) is on hold pending exchange proposal. The tract is not in line with the desired condition for recreation due to the loss of national forest character. Because of this situation, conveyance would be consistent with LMP goal. There are no TES species or heritage issues that cannot be mitigated as a part of a land exchange project.

Conclusions

Conveyance of the tract would be consistent with long-term plan goal 7.1 and Sweetwater Place emphasis for land adjustment. Fuels work is consistent with goal 1.1. This site should be proposed for conveyance to private holders using appropriate and available authorities as soon as practical. If not funded, administration of this tract would continue including action on non-conformity such as non-native vegetation.

Recommendations

- Proceed with preparing for a land exchange. This proposal is a Forest priority. The Forest must be sure to include enough land area to provide WUI Defense Zone on the private property after the exchange (LMP Part 2, Lands 1 strategy, p.111). In other words, a Defense Zone should not extend onto the Forest after the exchange.
- Amend the LMP through the exchange NEPA to remove the tract from “Other Designations – Recreation Residence Tracts table 479 (LMP Part 2, p.13).

Buckman Information Station (06-LMP-Dev_Rec-6)

Monitoring

Buckman Information Station is an ongoing activity site located just off Highway 8 in the Morena Place on the Descanso Ranger District. The site was reviewed for consistency with the Land Management Plan.

Results

The permit has expired and an application is being processed for redevelopment of the site. Cal Trans is proposing: 1) a new comfort station that will house accessible restrooms; 2) replacement of existing site furnishings with ADA compliant picnic tables, seating, drinking fountains, telephones, and trailer dump; 3) additional designated handicapped parking and California Highway Patrol parking; and 4) replacement of the existing water line from the pumphouse to the comfort station.

The information panels at Buckman and similar rest facilities present opportunities for sharing Forest messages with the public.



Conclusions

The improvements would move the Forest toward the long-term goal 3.1. The site provides an opportunity to enhance conservation education. This expired special use authorization was randomly selected. Expired special uses should be a program of work priority to ensure appropriate analysis, resource protection, and authorization of uses on the national forest.

Recommendations

- Work with Cal Trans to enhance interpretive displays both here and on the I-5 rest areas.
- Remove non-native species and require use of native vegetation in the landscaping.

Noble Canyon Trailhead (06-LMP-Dev_Rec-7)

Monitoring

The Noble Canyon Trailhead is an ongoing activity site in the Laguna Place on the Descanso Ranger District that includes a trailhead and a trail that is especially popular with mountain bikers. The site was reviewed for consistency with the Land Management Plan.

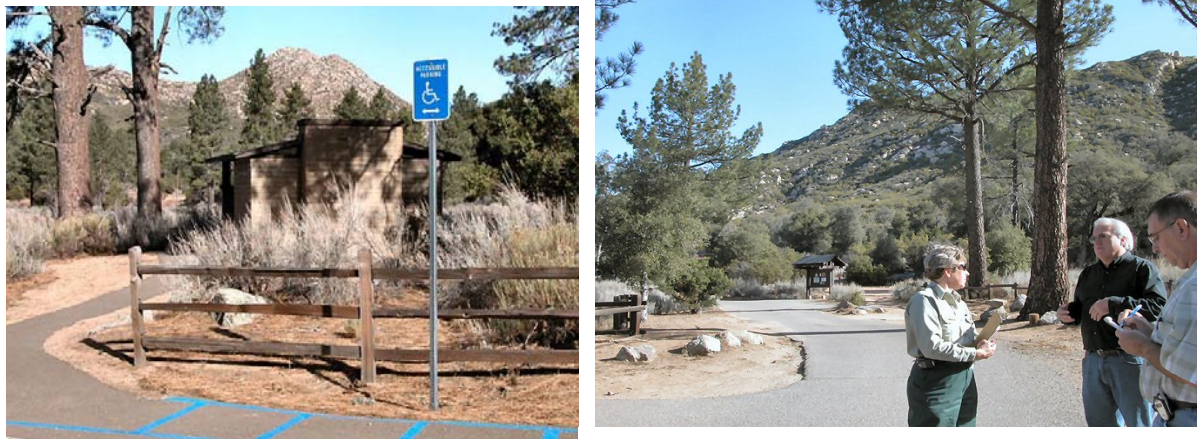


Resource protection measures, including those related to watershed and species management, are taken at Noble Canyon Trailhead to manage for sustainable recreation.

Results

The site is being managed consistent with long-term plan goal 3.1 and Laguna Place emphasis for scenery, high variety and quality recreation settings, and maintaining and developing recreation facilities in compliance with the built environment image guide. In recent years, the Forest has installed accessible picnicking and restroom facilities, equestrian amenities, and screening to prevent contamination of the water supply by bees. Soil and water improvements have been made to the trail, and user-created trails and parking areas have been rehabilitated. Downhill single track biking is a popular attraction here. Trail maintenance is accomplished in partnership with the San Diego Mountain Biking Association through an Adopt-a-Trail agreement. There are possible opportunities for additional designated trails.

Habitat for the endangered arroyo toad is present and there is no EMS implementation inspection checklist. When roads in the general area (not the trailhead itself) came close to exceeding incidental take permit for arroyo toads, the Forest Service notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and road closures were implemented to prevent further mortality of toads. The riparian obligate biological assessment that was completed in June 2007, and the forthcoming biological opinion will address and identify incidental take. This area was not included in the designated Quino checkerspot critical habitat.



The Noble Canyon Trailhead provides accessible improvements for forest visitors.

Conclusions

The biological opinion requirements have been implemented and are effective. Management of the TES species issue in the adjacent area has been good. However, there remains the need for documentation such as the EMS checklist to provide for consistent implementation of protective measures regardless of changes in personnel. Adaptive mitigation is evident. Recreation and resource protection-driven site improvements have been effective at moving the site toward the desired condition and implementing appendix D. Management at this site is consistent with LMP long-term goal 3.1, and recreation and trail objectives and strategies.

Recommendations

- Add past biological opinion requirements into an operating plan for the recreation site.
- Explore expanding the use of the INFRA database to enter and query resource protection actions needed at each recreation site. The ability to query a report of protective measures by site could facilitate knowledge transfer as personnel change.
- Explore use of this facility to serve as a trailhead to access Rancho Samagatuma west of the Pine Creek recreation residence tract.
- The Forest should consider adding the parking areas and connector trails up Pine Creek Road to provide alternative access to the Noble Canyon Trail. Additional parking areas could be considered as a part of the recreation site facility master planning process.

Black Mountain Range Allotment (06-LMP-Range-1)

Monitoring

The Black Mountain grazing allotment is an ongoing activity site that was reviewed for consistency with the Land Management Plan. Project planning was completed in FY 2006. The environmental analysis for this allotment was prepared together with the analysis for Love Valley, and Warner Ranch allotments. The permit and NEPA project file (decision memo) for Black Mountain was reviewed in the office. Rather than drive two hours to the Black Mountain allotment where that permit's one cow-calf and one bull would not be onsite, the team field reviewed Love Valley, which was supported by the same environmental analysis and had a larger herd of cattle onsite.



Love Valley allotment.

Results

The environmental analysis that covered both Love Valley and Black Mountain included a well-documented LMP consistency review. The monitoring team and District discussed the rationale for a winter grazing season noted in the environmental analysis for Love Valley. The District explained that the reason for winter grazing was in order to encourage perennial grasses, and that the cowbird issue (related to a TES species) noted in the environmental analysis was found to be a non-issue. Further documentation from the Forest Archaeologist appeared to be needed in the project file. The permit file included environmental management system (EMS) implementation checklists that documented inspections. Documentation of long-term condition and trend monitoring was in place.

Conclusions

Current management at Love Valley is leading to improving trends in rangeland condition. Management of the allotment is consistent with long-term goal 6.1 and Place emphasis to manage grazing on a sustainable basis in concert with other resource needs. Commendations are in order for the District for administration consistent with the LMP and especially for implementation of the Forest EMS.

Recommendations

- Continue current administration.
- Document in the file that the reason for winter grazing is to encourage perennial grasses not to discourage a non-existent cowbird issue.
- Consider removal of the Love Valley barn.
- The heritage survey and clearance in the file should have further review and documentation by the Forest Archaeologist (note: this was completed in February 2007).

Corte Madera Range Allotment (06-LMP-Range-2)

Monitoring

The Corte Madera grazing allotment is an ongoing activity site that was reviewed for consistency with the Land Management Plan. Project (NEPA) planning is currently underway (FY 2007).

The Forest program leader for grazing describes actions being taken at Corte Madera to monitor and improve rangeland condition. Nearby are Regional plots that monitor long-term condition and trends over time.



Results

All documentation was in the permit file including an LMP consistency review and environmental management system (EMS) implementation checklists. Documentation of inspections was in place. In the NEPA planning that is currently underway, *Poa atropurpurea* (San Bernardino bluegrass) management is proposed to be changed to improve effectiveness. Heritage evaluation is not yet completed. There are permanent Regional plots onsite to monitor long-term condition and trends over time.

Conclusions

Rangeland condition and trend is improving with current management. Management of the allotment is consistent with long-term goal 6.1 and Morena Place emphasis to manage grazing on a sustainable basis in concert with other resource needs. Commendations are in order for administration consistent with the LMP.

Recommendations

- Document the resolution of the *Poa*-related corrective action request (CAR 06-DRD-001) for this allotment when completed.
- Use Regional condition and trend data to fill in the baseline conditions table for LMP monitoring goal 6.1.
- Allow the flexibility in the permit for Rancho Corte Madera to implement the rest rotation system being used on the private portion of this allotment.

Horse Fire Review (06-LMP-FIRE-001)

Monitoring

The Horse Fire was an approximately 16,300 acre wildland fire that occurred in July-August 2006. The monitoring team reviewed the fire documentation (transition and final narratives, and letter of delegation) for consistency with the Forest EMS and Land Management Plan.

Results

The Final Narrative for Horse Fire (CA-CNF-002059) and the Horse Fire Transition Narrative (CA-CNF-2059) documented the objectives and concerns (see the Delegation of Authority letter) to be addressed by the fire team. However, the narratives did not include discussion of how effective the team was at addressing these concerns such as Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) guidelines in wilderness, threatened and endangered species, and heritage resources. This probably could be discerned by reviewing daily documentation from the fire records but is not readily available in the narrative that summarizes the fire.

Conclusions

Both the Forest EMS and Forest Service Manual 5130 call for the District Ranger to provide for an incident review of 100% of type 1 and 2 fires, and 10% of type 3, 4, and 5 fires. The fire team prepared fire narratives that describe the overall fire management as well as closeout with the fire team, and a subsequent financial review. The Letter of Delegation provides an excellent description of concerns but does not ask for feedback on effectiveness on addressing the concerns. The narrative format is standard and does not ask for this information. There was no after action review (AAR) of the fire to discuss and document how well management of the fire met the identified concerns and Land Management Plan direction, and if the Forest needs to make any changes based on lessons learned.

In order to identify and adopt lessons learned in a systematic manner, the Forest should conduct incident reviews.

Recommendations

- The Delegation of Authority letter should discuss the need for the fire team to review effectiveness of meeting the identified concerns and LMP direction (e.g. MIST).
- Review the Forest Fire Management Plan (FMP) to ensure that there is a standard operating procedure for completing incident reviews on the Cleveland National Forest.
- Complete a Horse Fire AAR relative to LMP direction and how that was implemented. There needs to be an example of how management of wildfires can move us toward or away from the Land Management Plan's desired condition.

East Grade Fuels Treatment (06-LMP-MV-1)

Monitoring

The East Grade Fuels Treatment was implemented for the purpose of reducing fuels. This approximately 55 acre treatment (part of an ongoing project) was reviewed for Land Management Plan (LMP) consistency.



The East Grade project reduced fuels to improve community protection.

Results

This project work done in a WUI Threat Zone is consistent with long-term goal 1.1 and Palomar Place emphasis to improve defensible space and community protection through the implementation of forest health projects that reduce stand density. The project outcome looked good on the ground-- the series of fuel treatments has led to significant fuel reduction. Coulter pine regeneration is well established following the mortality events of the late 1980's and early 2000's.

A 2002 Letter to the File in the project file states that the 1991 decision memo covers this continued fuels reduction work. The NEPA documentation was partly based on old information from past projects. A LMP consistency review should have been done when the new LMP went into effect in 2005; in addition, a September 20, 2006 U.S. District Court (Northern District of California) decision to reinstate the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule ("Roadless Rule") needed to be considered. Regarding the applicability of the Roadless Rule, the project area lies in an area mapped as an inventoried roadless area under the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule ("Roadless Rule"). In addition, the Forest Service has an agreement to work with the State to protect roadless values. Under the new LMP, the project area is zoned as Back Country Non-Motorized. This zoning allows for temporary road use. The roads in the project area have been

in place historically but due to an oversight in a previous roads inventory were mistakenly identified as undetermined in the travel routes database. The database needs to be corrected.

Archaeological sites were flagged and avoided, and a walkthrough was done with the contractor. However, the project was not coordinated with the Forest Archaeologist and the Archaeological Reconnaissance Reports referenced in the file are dated and inappropriate as support for the project. Although the project had considerable monitoring, inspections were not documented on EMS implementation inspection checklists.

Conclusions

Existing documentation is not sufficient to continue this project without updated evaluations. Specifically, a heritage evaluation approved by the Forest Archaeologist and travel analysis should be completed before the project proceeds. Although the project work involves brush removal and onsite brush disposal, with no timber removal or road construction/reconstruction, the State Resources Agency on the roadless area issue should be consulted to ensure fulfillment of the agreement.

Recommendations

The project should be put on hold pending correction of following:

- Complete a Corrective Action Request (CAR) for consistency with heritage policy. Coordinate with Forest Archaeologist and complete an updated heritage evaluation for the site.
- Complete a Corrective Action Request (CAR) for consistency with Inventoried Roadless Area policy. Conduct travel analysis for UND386 road to determine appropriate status given the Roadless Rule and LMP zoning. Consult with the State Resources Agency on the project (note: in February 2007, the State was notified and concurred that the project is in compliance with agreement).
- Prepare a decision memo that considers any new information and documents the consistency of the project with the 2005 LMP in the project file.
- Complete a Corrective Action Request (CAR) to prepare an EMS inspection worksheet and follow-up.
- Use an EMS implementation checklist to document inspection of required resource protection measures and post-project monitoring in the project file.

Fry Creek Mortality Removal project (06-LMP-MV-2)

Monitoring

The Fry Creek Mortality Removal project was implemented for the purpose of reducing fuels and improving forest health. Planned treatments in the 850 acre project area will be accomplished in phases and include removal of dead trees (including hazard trees in campgrounds), selective understory thinning, and mechanical mastication, followed by prescribed burning, reforestation and restoration. This project was reviewed for Land Management Plan (LMP) consistency.



The Fry Creek project is reducing fuel loads for community protection and forest health. The project is located in the Palomar Mountain area.



Results

About 145 acres were completed last year. The results appear to meet the fuels reduction objective. Half the work was carried out using a fuelwood contractor via service contract. Logs were sent to a biomass plant. The NEPA documentation is in place. No EMS implementation inspection checklist or contract inspections are in the project file. The project file does not include documentation of an LMP consistency review but project review showed that the project appears to be consistent with the plan.

Conclusions

This treatment is consistent with the LMP long-term goals 1.1, 1.2 and 1.2.1; objectives; and Palomar Place emphasis, which call for the improvement of defensible space and community protection through the implementation of forest health projects that reduce stand density. However, it is only a partial step toward the long-term desired condition for the area (WUI Defense and Threat Zone). The project is also consistent with long-term goal 3.1 as the District plans to open Fry Creek Campground following completion of this hazard tree removal project.

Recommendations

- After completion of the fuel reduction phase of the project, review status of the stand relative to the prescription and schedule follow-up planning and treatment as appropriate.
- Prepare an EMS inspection worksheet to rollup the lessons learned and document inspections using daily logs.
- Continue to reduce fuels through biomass utilization and burning including removal of deep chip layers.

Filaree Flats Forest Health project (06-LMP-MV-3)

Monitoring

The Filaree Flats forest health project consists of approximately 320 acres of dead fuels removal in an area of the popular Laguna Mountain Recreation Area that burned in the 2003 Cedar Fire. The project was reviewed for consistency with the Cleveland Forest EMS and in particular implementation of operational controls and EMS implementation checklists.



Below: Natural regeneration of Coulter pine is evident in the Filaree Flats project area.



Filaree Flats Forest Health Project area after removal of dead fuels.

Results

The project record was excellent and contained thorough NEPA documentation including an EMS implementation inspection checklist. This checklist is a new requirement of the Cleveland Forest's environmental management system (EMS) and has the purpose of ensuring that requirements are carried out on the ground as intended and approved. The checklist documented inspections. The project successfully accomplished the public safety and forest health objectives and met most of the resource protection measures. Unfortunately, there was one incident of damage to a heritage site during relocation of the whole-tree chipper. The cause was a misunderstanding in the communication between the Forest Service and the contractor as well as a lack of flagging in place to signal to the contractor areas to avoid.

Conclusions

The Filaree Flats forest health and wildland urban interface threat zone fuels work is consistent with long-term plan goal 1.1 and Laguna Place emphasis to manage for scenery, proper stand stocking, healthy coniferous vegetation for its scenic and recreation value, and continued community protection. The project moves toward the desired vegetation condition in the LMP pending evaluation of natural regeneration over time. Coulter pine regeneration is well established but Jeffrey pine may be insufficient to meet desired condition. Commendations are in order for the District's excellent project record documentation. Improvement is needed in implementation of the protective measures approved for the project.

Recommendations

- In accordance with the Cleveland environmental management system, complete a corrective action request (CAR) for damage to the heritage site including follow-up actions (e.g. tribal and heritage) and procedures to prevent this type of event in the future.
- Continue to monitor the natural regeneration.
- Try to obtain funding to complete the remainder of the project (<50 acres).

Pine Valley Fuelbreak (06-LMP-Rx-1)

Monitoring

Pine Valley Fuelbreak has the objective of community protection. This project was reviewed for LMP consistency.



As viewed from Sunrise Highway, the fuelbreak is located just north of the community of Pine Valley.

Results

The project file included the NEPA decision (decision memo) although not all supporting specialist reports. No TES or critical habitat or archaeological site mitigation was prescribed. The project was designed to avoid arroyo toad habitat. Hand firing was done and burn plan objectives were checked afterward. The scenic integrity objective (SIO) is not met. No documentation of monitoring as required by the burn plan was available. Originally the mechanical fuelbreak (including some unnatural appearing corners and edges) was put in during Laguna Fire in 1970. Only mastication and handline work has been done since then. The SIO

non-conformity will not be corrected until the community and a Community Wildfire Protection Plan support further work that could soften and improve the visuals. Development of a Fire Safe Council is in the start up stage.

Conclusions

The project maintained existing fuelbreak configuration and accomplished fuel reduction objectives as planned. Accomplishment of significant improvement in SIO will require a redesign of the fuelbreak. This WUI Defense Zone treatment is consistent with the LMP long-term goal 1.1 and Laguna Place emphasis to continue community protection work.

Recommendations

- Continue working with the community to establish a Fire Safe Council and incorporate a WUI Defense Zone for future development that blends from the private land onto the Forest where we have an existing type conversion;
- Explore a partnership with Fire Safe Council to interpret WUI vegetation treatments and community protection from a large overlook on Sunrise Highway.
- Complete a Corrective Action Request for non-attainment of the SIO.

Gun Slinger OHV Trail Maintenance and Use (06-LMP-OHV-1)

Monitoring

Gun Slinger OHV Trail is one of the trails located in the southern area of Corral Canyon that was burned in the Horse Fire. Maintenance as well as fencing is scheduled. The trail was reviewed for consistency with the Land Management Plan (LMP).



Natural barriers along the OHV trail still exist in some areas, while in others artificial barriers are needed to guide users to stay on the trail.

Results

This trail is currently closed due to Horse Fire. Plans are to open up the trails in phases based on completion of fencing to keep vehicles on trail. Some rehabilitation work has been done. More is planned such as fencing and water bars. Extensive fencing will affect the foreground visual quality; however, it is needed to protect soils while the area is recovering from the Horse Fire. The fencing has not yet been installed but the District intends to use the gap fencing concept of using vegetation wherever possible to mitigate the visual impacts on users.

Conclusions

The project is consistent with LMP goal 3.1 regarding providing for public use while at the same time protecting resources.

Recommendations

- Continue with plans for fencing to keep users on the trail while mitigating for visual impacts to the extent possible. Use the gap fencing concept and locate fencing behind what will become a screen of vegetation as the shrubs grow back following the Horse Fire.

OHV Program Monitoring (06-LMP-OHV-2)

Monitoring

Corral Canyon was designated an open area in the 1986 Land Management Plan (LMP). Status was unchanged by the 2005 LMP. The site was reviewed for consistency with the new plan direction and Greensticker grant monitoring.



The Forest Service issued a closure order to protect watershed and heritage resources in the area burned by the Horse Fire.



Soil protective measures are being put in place in the burned area. The area is being reopened to public use and enjoyment as rehabilitation efforts are completed.

Results

This is currently a designated open area from the 1986 Cleveland LMP. A soil monitoring report including photo inventory was completed. Based on soil monitoring results, several restoration projects have been completed while a list of others is slated to be funded through State Greensticker grants. After fire burned down vegetation that normally restricts off road use, a closure was put into effect to protect the watershed pending rehabilitation projects. Design plans for the burned area include installation of barriers before reopening the area. Projects have been installed and appear to be effective at improving environmental conditions as planned. The District has responded to past use patterns by inventorying and implementing a number of restoration projects.

Conclusions

Off-highway vehicle use on designated trails/routes is consistent with long-term plan goal 3.1. Brush has historically kept users on trails/routes. However, if not for the temporary closure after the fire, the open area designation would not have been consistent with watershed protection and soil productivity, particularly with these highly erodible soils. Commendations are in order for the District for applying mitigation to the OHV area as needed to protect resources, as directed in appendix D of the new LMP.

Recommendations

- Designate specific trails/routes through route designation process.
- Continue closure order for off road and trail use until the area can be managed for OHV use on designated routes and trails.

Water Quality Monitoring (06-LMP-BMP-1)

Monitoring

The Regional Best Management Practices Evaluation Program (BMPEP) conducts a statewide sampling of projects and activities. The Forest did not produce a report in FY 2006, which would have focused on projects completed in the previous year or two.

Results

The Forest implemented project BMPs, but was out of compliance with the Regional protocol to complete BMPEP monitoring and prepare a report for fiscal year 2006. However, a hydrologist and other specialists have conducted BMP monitoring this fiscal year (FY2007) in compliance with Regional protocol. Activities monitored on the Cleveland include roads, dispersed and developed recreation sites, locatable minerals sites, range management, and prescribed fire. The Forest will produce a report by January 2008 and share the information with local Regional water boards.

Recommendations

- Complete a Corrective Action Request to document that BMPEP was not conducted.
- Coordinate with the Regional Office program leader to re-initiate BMPEP monitoring program and evaluate results in 2008.

Roads Monitoring (06-LMP-Roads-1)

Monitoring

The Cleveland Monitoring Protocol and EMS both document that roads will be monitored via a Regional roads protocol. There has been a recent change in policy. The Cleveland will now be participating in nationwide sampling of roads. If selected, Forest roads will be monitored in accordance with national protocol. The annual road maintenance contract is administered using contract daily diaries and is monitored as a part of the EMS.

Results

Monitoring surfaced some roads management issues. In accordance with the Forest EMS, the following issues were documented through the filing of Corrective Action Requests:

- CAR 06-CNF-001 identifies the need to improve management of roads associated with existing or terminated special use authorizations (including range allotments), unclassified roads, and roads accessing private lands.
- CAR 06-DRD-002 identifies a breached closure of Noble Canyon Road by vehicles. Another issue is that this 0.25 mile spur is shown as a road on the recreation map and has not been added to our trail system yet we provide a parking facility to access the trail.
- CAR 06-PRD-001 involves a bulldozer working on a utility road without appropriate notification to the Forest Service.

All of the above CARs have had corrective action taken and longer term resolution scheduled.

Conclusions

So far the CARs appear to be effective at identifying and documenting issues found by employees or the public, and progress toward the desired condition is being made.

Recommendations

- Monitor roads in accordance with the national protocol;
- Follow-up the CARs as per the Forest EMS.

IV. Annual Indicators of Progress Toward Forest Goals

This section documents the monitoring of indicators of progress toward the Land Management Plan (LMP) Desired Conditions. Tracking of annual indicators will help to discern trends over time and support the comprehensive evaluation that will be prepared in the fifth year following plan implementation.

Acres of High Hazard and High Risk in WUI Defense Zone (Forest Goal 1.1)

In 2006 a total of 2,698 acres of hazardous fuel treatments within Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) were reported as accomplished. This contributes to the National Strategic Plan (Objectives 1.1 and 1.3). The Cleveland National Forest Land Management Plan identifies a more specific indicator focused on measuring progress toward increasing the level of the Forest fuels program in the “Defense Zone” described in the LMP.

Background on this indicator:

The WUI defense zone is defined in Part 3 of the LMP in Standard S7 including the referenced Appendix K. The defense zone is the portion of the Wildland /Urban Interface that is directly adjacent to structures. It has a variable width which is determined at the project level up to maximum widths defined for general vegetation types in S7. For the LMP analysis, the maximum width was assumed and this was used to represent the present or “baseline” extent of the WUI defense zone.

High hazard fuels are those that have the potential to burn with high intensity. Fire intensity affects suppression effectiveness in protecting structures in interface areas. A key strategy in the LMP is to reduce fire hazard adjacent to communities and structures to improve suppression effectiveness and provide defensible space in interface areas.

Risk is related to human values or “risk of loss”. The presence of structures is the indicator of risk in this analysis. (It should be noted that due to rapid development of private lands in southern California, the inventory of areas with structures is constantly changing. It is likely that the map representing the WUI defense zone is out of date and should only be considered an estimate of the actual area. The actual presence of communities and substantial structures is determined at the project level. In other words, the WUI defense zone GIS coverage or map is not an LMP decision. The decision is to apply the direction in LMP Standards S7 (including Appendix K) and S8 to areas that are actually adjacent to communities or substantial structures at the time of project planning. Areas where old structures have been removed are not part of the defense zone.)

There is no Forest-wide site-specific inventory of fuel hazard within the defense zone. In addition, high hazard conditions can be dynamic, returning in as little as five years after a fire in some vegetation types. For this reason, the hazard indicator is assumed to be high in all areas until a project level assessment determines otherwise. Therefore, the monitoring task is to track the level of management effort directed at reducing fire hazard in the WUI defense zone including keeping the inventory of the actual defense zone up-to-date.

The method of calculating progress toward Goal 1.1 is as follows and summarized in the table titled "Template for adjustments to the baseline": Indicators of progress toward Goal 1.1 will be calculated by using the WUI defense zone from the LMP analysis database. Include any adjustments to this coverage based on documented project analysis or other monitoring. Select accomplishment polygons for accomplishment code FP-FUELS-WUI for the year or years being analyzed from the appropriate reporting system (NFPORS, FACTS). Report the acres of overlap of accomplishment polygons with defense zone polygons as the annual indicator of progress toward the desired condition. Every five years the number of high hazard acres within the defense zone should be calculated to use for documenting the trend as a long-term indicator. It can be assumed that acres documented as being treated in the corporate reporting system are no longer high hazard.

Template for adjustments to the baseline: 2006

A = Baseline Acres from LMP Analysis	B = Acres removed due to new information on presence of substantial structures	C = Acres added due to new information on presence of substantial structures	D = Acres treated and reported in corporate report systems.	Adjusted Acres (A-B+C-D)
Fire Regime I 6,656	0	0	188	6469
Fire Regimes III, IV, V 3,574	0	0	256	3318
Total: 10,230	0	0	444	9787

2006 Fuels Treatment Accomplishment Detail

FACTS SUID	Project Name	NFPORS ID	Acres
0502530006264992000	06-54 Birch Hill	6264992	18.39
0502530530010000001	06-54 Fry Creek Hole Tree Chipping	6266170	2.71
0502540006264999000	Laguna_fuels_mtn1	6264999	113.33
0502540006266958000	06-54 Laguna Fuels	6266958	53.08
	Sub Total Fire Regime I		187.51
0502520006264984000	06-54 Falls	6264984	45.52
0502530006265000000	06-54 Observatory Fuelbreak	6265000	56.64
0502540003272217000	06-54 Evac	3272217	38.59
0502540006266426000	06-54 Carveacre	6266426	8.21
0502540006266427000	06-54 Lake Morena Fuelbreak	6266427	18.04
0502540006266428000	06-54 Pine Creek Cabin	6266428	30.41
0502540006266429000	06-54 Viejas Creek Fuelbreak	6266429	14.11
0502540006266430000	06-54 Ironside fuelbreak	6266430	9.70
0502540006266432000	06-54 Hubbard Grove	6266432	34.44
	Sub Total Fire Regime III,IV,V		255.67
	Total		443.17

The table titled “2006 Fuels Treatment Accomplishment Detail” shows the status of fuels accomplishment as per the corporate database systems. The database historically used to track fuels accomplishment was called the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS); however, this data is being migrated to the Forest Service Activity Tracking System (FACTS) database, which will be the corporate database of record for fuels accomplishment thereafter. Annual querying of the corporate database will help to answer the outcome evaluation question: Has the Cleveland National Forest made progress in reducing the number of acres that are adjacent to development within WUI defense zones that are classified as high risk?

Use of spatially explicit information for adjusting the baseline is important so the cause of changes in the numbers can be evaluated. It is important to know if the change is due to improved inventory information, actual treatments or both. Also, it is not appropriate to simply add up the annual indicator (acres treated) and subtract it from the baseline. This could over count maintenance treatments and would not take into account acres added due to new development. Part of our evaluation should determine if new development is adding to the defense zone increase because we have an LMP strategy to prevent that from happening through involvement in local planning.

LMP Monitoring 2006 Progress toward Desired Condition (Forest Goal 1.2.1)

Of the 2,698 acres of hazardous fuels reduction in FY 2006, 920 were in Fire Regime 1, indicating progress toward Goal 1.2.1. Specific changes in condition class will be reported in the FACTS database starting in FY 2007.

Following the wildfires of 2003, a re-sampling of the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) plots was conducted by the Forest Service Remote Sensing Lab. Detailed information on the results of this monitoring can be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/rsl/projects/inventory/inv-download.shtml#socalmort>.

For the past several years, a portion of the Forest’s vegetation management program in forested stands has been in areas burned in the 2003 wildfires. In FY 2006, the Filaree Flats Forest Health Protection project was entirely within the area burned on Mt. Laguna in the Cedar Fire. (See FY 2006 project monitoring in the previous section.)

Following is a brief summary of the tree mortality data on forested FIA plots for southern California National Forests. Numbers represent thousands of cubic feet:

Summary of Tree Mortality Data on Forested FIA plots for southern California Forests.

Live Before	Species	Died in Fire	Live Now	% Died
496	Bigcone Douglas-fir	0	496	0%
12,659	Jeffrey pine	12,252	407	97%
818	White fir	818	0	100%
1,959	Incense cedar	1,959	0	100%
15,932	Total conifers (mcf)	15,029	903	94%
18,560	California black oak	18,300	260	99%
31,896	Coast live oak	931	30,964	3%
14,373	Canyon live oak	12,830	1,543	89%
3,801	Interior live oak	1,596	2,204	42%
337	Western sycamore	0	337	0%
17,004	Eucalyptus	0	17,004	0%
85,972	Total hardwoods (mcf)	33,658	52,314	39%
101,904	Total (mcf)	48,687	53,217	48%

LMP Monitoring 2006 Progress toward Desired Condition (Forest Goal 1.2.2)

The Horse Fire burned the south slope of Hauser Canyon continuing a trend of excessively frequent fire in that area. The remainder of the burned area was within the desired range of variability for Fire Regime 4 (Chaparral). The Sierra Fire burned in old age chaparral on the Forest (within the desired range of variability) however; a portion of the rare Tecate cypress stands in Cole Canyon Reserve (adjacent to the Forest) re-burned at a young age. This puts a portion of the stand at risk of type conversion including reduction or loss of the Tecate cypress. Mark Borchert (Province Ecologist) reviewed the site and prepared a report on the expected response of the cypress to this fire. The report is available, together with the LMP Monitoring and Evaluation report, on the Forest web site ([Tecate cypress](#)).

LMP Monitoring 2006 Progress toward Desired Condition (Forest Goal 1.2.3)

There were no fires in Fire Regime 5 in FY 2006.

Management Indicator Species (Forest Goal 6.2)

In accordance with the Cleveland LMP, Goal 6.2, Biological Resource Condition, twelve management indicator species (MIS) were selected to monitor certain habitat types and issues, as described in Part 1, page 44-45. These species will be monitored along with other indicators of progress toward achieving desired conditions for biological resources. A Forest MIS Report was prepared last year to describe the current environmental baseline conditions. The report is available on the Forest web site ([Management Indicator Species Report](#)).



A new interpretive sign installed this year near Lake Henshaw helps to enhance awareness and enjoyment of raptors. Monitoring indicates that bald eagles sometimes winter this far south.

Threatened and Endangered Species Monitoring – B.O. Adjustments to LMP Environmental Baseline (06-LMP-BO-1)

Monitoring

The Forest Biologist provided an updated summary of monitoring efforts required by current biological opinions.

Results

All monitoring that is currently required has been completed and a report will be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) this year. Monitoring requirements are being updated through new site-specific biological opinions. These will be updated on a priority basis. The biological assessment for riparian obligate species and ongoing activities was completed in June 2007 and consultation with FWS is underway. Baseline conditions established in the LMP monitoring guide are up-to-date for FY 2006.

Conclusions

The threatened and endangered species monitoring program is working well in most areas—a process is in place to update procedures based on what is learned, and changes are expected through the updated consultations with the FWS.

Recommendations

- Continue required monitoring;
- Add analysis of the recent designation of critical habitat for Laguna Mountains skipper butterfly to the baseline in FY 2007;
- As operational plans are developed for recreation sites, ensure institutional memory of problem resolution by making sure to document protection measures used in the past (whether on an annual, periodic, or one-time basis). These may be documented in the INFRA database for each site.

Water Quality Monitoring (Forest Goal 5.2)

The State of California Water Boards released their Clean Water Act Section 305b Report “Water Quality Assessment of the Condition of California Coastal Waters and Wadeable Streams.” This report is available at www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp. This program in the San Diego Region is discussed on page 71 of the report. “Between 2001 and 2004, the regional program has collaborated with the U.S. Forest Service, County of San Diego, City of San Diego, State Parks and San Diego Stream Team to identify sample sites and collect samples in the SWAMP watersheds. The Regional Board coordinated several bioassessment monitoring projects that contributed to the development of the index of biotic integrity (Ode et.al., 2005)”. Page 43 reports that 34 and 33 percent of the sample streams were impaired according to the Macroinvertebrate Index of Biotic Integrity and the Macroinvertebrate Observed/Expected Index, respectively. Cleveland National Forest specific data indicate that all reference and test streams were in fair to good condition with a higher percentage of the test streams in fair condition. Reference sites are generally located upstream from suspected management influences while test sites are located downstream.

In 2002 the State of California (State Water Resources Control Board) added Pine Creek as a new 303(D) impaired stream under the Clean Water Act. This raises the number of impaired stream reaches on the Forest to five. As part of the Recreation Residence Continuance Evaluation the Forest conducted a water quality study in coordination with the City of San Diego to determine the locations of unacceptable levels of pollution. The study indicated that the contamination was not from the area adjacent to the recreation residence tract. The first stream reach with water quality issues appears immediately downstream of the community of Pine Valley. In 1996, the pasture of the Guatay grazing allotment that included this impaired section of stream was removed from the allotment and permitted cattle grazing is on upland areas at least ½ mile from this reach of stream. However; the Forest will be continuing to work with other agencies to monitor the status and improvement of Pine Creek including quick response to potential trespass grazing in the area. Past stream restoration projects are now well established and provide a dramatic contrast with the past condition of Pine Creek.

Air Quality Monitoring

Under the Regional air quality monitoring program, a sampling station near the Agua Tibia Wilderness monitors the air quality near this Class 1 airshed. This station is part of the IMPROVE national monitoring network. More information may be found at the IMPROVE web site at the following URL's:

Raw data: <http://vista.cira.colostate.edu/improve/Data/data.htm>

Reports: http://vista.cira.colostate.edu/improve/Publications/improve_reports.htm

V. LMP Monitoring Protocol Recommendations

The protocol was planned to carry out the monitoring plan in the 2005 LMP. The following are team recommendations for modifying the protocol in the future:

- 1) Consolidate LMP protocol and tracking forms, the existing forms were redundant.
- 2) In addition to the option of an LMP team field reviewing projects and activities in one week, retain the flexibility to accomplish the LMP monitoring in a variety of ways. The following could be used and then “rolled up” into the LMP Monitoring and Evaluation Report:
 - a) Specialist monitoring: This is already in place for biological resources but could be expanded to other programs as well. For example, an LMP team could effectively monitor trails through review of a specialist’s trail inventory such as the OHV erosion monitoring report.
 - b) District Ranger-led After Action Reviews (AAR): Document in the project file and rollup any implementation or effectiveness monitoring findings into the Annual LMP Monitoring and Evaluation Report. It is recommended that the District Ranger include the Forest Planner and/or Supervisor’s Office specialists to participate in the AAR.
 - c) In certain cases, a file review will do. This is how Black Mountain Range Allotment was handled, as described on page 12 of this report.
- 3) Rather than only select a 10% random sample of projects and activities, have the flexibility to address programs differently if this will improve monitoring. For example:
 - a) Focus monitoring at the program level when a program (e.g. Greensticker OHV program) is more important to monitor than individual OHV trails. For example, the overall soils monitoring of the trail/route system is of key interest.
 - b) Address the monitoring of progress on user-created trails similar to the addressing of roads in route designation, in partnership with the user groups.
 - c) Focus on ongoing activities where something happened there that fiscal year. For example, make a list of recent decisions for non-recreation special use authorizations.
 - d) Recreation residence tracts were reviewed rather than individual permits because it was management of the tract’s resources that was more important than the lot, and more efficient and meaningful than monitoring a sample from several hundred permits.
- 4) Identify the FY 2008 LMP monitoring team at the beginning of the fiscal year to facilitate advance scheduling.

VI. Overall Recommendations

The following recommendations do not stem from any one individual project or activity review but rather, grew out of considering how to improve Forestwide programs, projects and activities:

Environmental Management System (EMS)

- 1) Revise the Cleveland Forest EMS based on forthcoming national direction;
- 2) During the next round of EMS training, emphasize the importance of the Operational Control steps in the Forest EMS (Element 4.4.6) and specifically itemizing and tracking resource protection measures from the decision to the on-the-ground implementation and post-project monitoring;
- 3) Build public credibility through continuing to follow-up on Corrective Action Requests (CARs) that apply Forest-wide.

Forest and Project Planning

- 4) Line officers need to ensure that 2005 LMP consistency reviews are documented in every project file, even when projects were approved prior to October 2005. Each NEPA decision needs to be supported by up-to-date analysis. Remind Forest personnel of the need to address the 2001 Roadless Rule in all project planning, which may involve Forest Service staff in Sacramento meeting with the State Resources Agency.
- 5) Line officers need to assign an appropriate interdisciplinary team to each project—this will always include the wildlife biologist, botanist, and archaeologist, plus others as appropriate.
- 6) Clarify the protocol for employees to follow to ensure that heritage resources policy is met.
- 7) Line officers should specifically list all mitigation in the decision document so that implementers are clear on approved resource protection measures to incorporate into any implementation plans (e.g. burn plan) and use on the ground. If applicable, ensure that an EMS implementation checklist is in the project file.
- 8) Make sure to consider connected actions when planning. For example, take advantage of special use permit re-issuance to approve associated roads decisions and make corrections to the roads database. With limited personnel and appropriations, efficient analysis and approval of proposed actions is important.
- 9) Improve accomplishment reporting in all the corporate databases including both tabular and spatial data. This is necessary in order to track and monitor projects, and to get proper credit for accomplished projects. It is recommended that line officers communicate to project leaders that NEPA projects must be entered into FACTS, including a shapefile. Likewise, the INFRA database also needs to be current.
- 10) Craft a 2008 Forest program of work that:
 - a) is responsive to identified work items in the Land Management Plan or Record of Decision, including addressing items such as undetermined roads and trails; and
 - b) more effectively focuses the Forest's limited resources on making progress toward LMP desired conditions and completing identified work items through integration of functional programs around common priorities.

VII. Potential LMP Amendments and Corrections

- Remove designation of Corral Canyon and Wildomar OHV open area designations.
- Through a land exchange process (NEPA document), remove Viejas and Hulburt Tracts from “Other Designations—Recreation Residence Tracts” table 479 (LMP Part 2, p. 13).

VIII. Action Plan

The Forest Supervisor approves all of the recommendations in sections V and VI.

The Forest recreation planner will prepare a LMP amendment for removal of the Corral Canyon and Wildomar Open Area designations by December 2008. Trails within the open areas will be designated through the route designation process.

The Forest will continue with implementation of the Forest Environmental Management System (EMS). The Forest EMS Rep will coordinate the EMS action items listed in the above section.

The Forest Supervisor will assign a team to create and implement a Forest strategy to improve accomplishment reporting in all the corporate databases including both tabular and spatial data. The team will create a Forest FACTS guide to identify Forest roles and protocol.

The Forest Supervisor will assign an interdisciplinary Program of Work/Budget team to make progress toward developing an integrated multiple year program of work.

The Forest Supervisor will issue a letter of direction to clarify and emphasize heritage resources policy (note: a letter was issued under Forest Supervisor signature on February 8, 2007).

IX. Public Participation

People who indicated an interest in LMP monitoring received a letter notifying them of the availability of the Forest LMP Monitoring and Evaluation Report. Limited copies of the reports will be distributed at public meetings related to LMP implementation in July-August 2007.

X. List of Preparers

The FY 2006 LMP monitoring team consisted of:

Grace Terrazas, Palomar District Ranger
Gloria Silva, Forest Resources Officer
Anne Carey, Forest Recreation Planner

Tom White, Forest Planner
Russ Lajoie, District Resources Officer
Tom Brand, Forest Fuels Officer

The team expresses its gratitude for the effort and support from program and project leaders across the Forest.

Appendix

Table 1. Projects and activities randomly selected for LMP monitoring and evaluation on the Cleveland National Forest.


Unit *	Place	Name **	Pro- Ject (10%)	Pro- gram	Ongoing Activity Site (10%)	Monitor LMP Consis- tency	Monitor Effective- ness	Documentation Reviewed and/or Comments
TRD	Elsinore	Blue Jay Campground			CG	X	X	
DRD	Morena	Corte Madera range allotment			Range	X	X	EMS checklists. Permit file. BO-POAT, QCB.
DRD	Laguna	Filaree Flats fuels thinning per EMS	X	X		X	X	NEPA file (project review) and also EMS program review—op controls.
DRD	Laguna	Laguna Visitor Center			Rec	X	X	Also NEPA file for 2002 remodel decision.
DRD	Laguna	SBC Monument Peak	X		Non-rec SUA	X	X	NEPA file. Permit file. EMS checklist.
DRD	Laguna	Noble Canyon Trailhead			Trailhd	X	X	BO-ARTO.
DRD	Sweetwater	Viejas Rec Residence Tract			Rec SUA	X	X	Review permit files in context of LMP consistency of tract resources.
DRD	Morena, Pine Creek	Horse Fire Review per Cleveland EMS	X					EMS review. Interim and Final Narratives Horse Fire.
DRD	Laguna	Pine Valley Fuelbreak Broadcast Burn	X			X	X	NEPA file. EMS checklists (if any).
DRD	Morena	Gun Slinger OHV Trail Maintenance and Use			OHV trail	X	X	
DRD	Morena	OHV Grant Monitoring Requirements or Area Closure		X	OHV area			Resources monitoring documentation (if any). Also NEPA file for 2004 O&M decision.
DRD	Morena	Buckman Springs Information Site			Rec SUA	X	X	Permit file. NEPA underway.
PRD	San Dieguito/Black Mountain	Black Mountain range allotment			Range	X	X	EMS checklists. Permit file. NEPA file.
PRD	Upper San Diego River	Inaja Memorial Picnic Ground			Rec	X	X	
PRD	Palomar	East Grade Fuels Treatment (Mastication/Mowing)	X			X	X	NEPA file. EMS checklists (if any).

Unit *	Place	Name **	Pro- Ject (10%)	Pro- gram	Ongoing Activity Site (10%)	Monitor LMP Consis- tency	Monitor Effective- ness	Documentation Reviewed and/or Comments
PRD	Palomar	Fry Creek Penny Pines TSI Mastication/Mowing	X			X	X	NEPA file. EMS checklists (if any).
PRD	Palomar	Crestline Group CG			CG	X	X	
Forest	All	FY06 annual species monitoring per B.O.		X			X	Species monitoring info reported to FWS. Baseline analysis.
Forest	All	Roads monitoring		X				Monitoring per Regional roads monitoring (not yet available). EMS calls for review of roads maintenance contract; however, the contract was let in FY06 before the EMS was approved. Review CARs.
Forest	All	BMPEP per State agreement		X	X	X	X	BMPEP sampling and documentation as required by Regional agreement w/State Water Resources Control Board.

* TRD = Trabuco Ranger District; DRD = Descanso Ranger District; PRD = Palomar Ranger District

** The team may review additional projects if the District Ranger wants to share other projects to add to the forest's continuous improvement/learning.

Figure 1. Forest EMS environmental policy poster.



**Cleveland National Forest
Environmental Policy**

USDA Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Cleveland National Forest
June 2006

**PLAN DO
EMS
ACT CHECK**

The Cleveland National Forest is implementing a new Environmental Management System (EMS) to help continually improve environmental conditions on National Forest System land.

What is the focus of the Environmental Management System?
The environmental policy in the Cleveland Environmental Management System (EMS) captures the overall intentions and direction related to our environmental performance, including a Forest commitment to:

- make progress toward the vision described in the Cleveland Land Management Plan;
- continually improve environmental conditions through monitoring, reporting and correcting environmental impacts from our management activities or public use on the Forest;
- prevent or continually reduce pollution;
- comply with applicable legal and other requirements for our management activities that can affect the environment.

Where can I get more information?

- Cleveland National Forest web site at www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland (look for EMS under “Related Links”)
- Call (858) 673-6180
- Email r5_cnf_ems@fs.fed.us

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